

JOINT MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2014

In attendance:

Parks & Recreation Board

Christopher Bluford
Dave Gilbertson
Kris Hildebrandt
Michael Megill

Arts Commission

Marissa Heringer
Elizabeth Lunsford
Kathleen Moore
Paul Richards
Adam Segalla

Neighborhoods and Demographic

Diversity Commission

Rosamaria Graziani
Berel Paltiel
Glenda Powell-Freeman
Pining Reyes
Angel Shimelish
Shirley Sutton
Ty Tufono

Staff

Mayor Nicola Smith
Assistant City Administrator Art Ceniza
Director Lynn Sordel
Deputy Director Sarah Olson
Recreation Superintendent Joel Faber
Park Superintendent Eric Peterson
Communications & Public Affairs Manager Julie Moore
Healthy Communities Coordinator Marielle Harrington
Administrative Assistant Elena Flesher

City Council

M. Christopher Boyer
Benjamin Goodwin

Welcome and Introductions

Budget Overview/Comprehensive Plan Outreach. Director Lynn Sordel, Recreation Superintendent Joel Faber, Park Superintendent Eric Peterson and Deputy Director Sarah Olson reviewed the department's proposed 2015-2016 budget and commented on programming, operations and challenges.

Questions & Answers / Discussion of Priorities for Advocacy.

Paul Richards: Asked if the City of Lynnwood is unique in the magnitude of non-residents using the facilities.

Lynn Sordel: Lynnwood is unique because of its investment in the Recreation Center and its beautiful parks and amenities; use is higher than ever because of the economy.

Joel Faber: Even before the Recreation Center was renovated there was a high non-resident customer base. Lynnwood's swim lesson and aquatics programming is desirable and draws from outside the community. The rest of the building has a higher percentage of resident users.

Dave Gilbertson: Noted the impressive set of accomplishments despite a lean budget. Is the general fund the department's primary revenue source?

Lynn Sordel: The department has received grant funding from Verdant Health Commission and scholarship funds from the Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Joel Faber: Explained the Recreation Benefit Fund scholarship program.

Sarah Olson: Highlighted the department's \$2.7 million in annual revenue.

Michael Megill: Suggested that some of the Recreation Center revenues should go back to the department to help maintain the facility.

Councilmember Boyer: The Council Finance Committee is working with Finance Director Hines to create a maintenance reserve account.

Dave Gilbertson: Asked if there is dedicated funding for capital improvements to support and maintain the parks.

Eric Peterson: There is money in the budget for upkeep and maintenance but not for updates.

Rosamaria Graziani: Suggested that the bond payment should be deducted from revenue reporting from the Recreation Center.

Lynn Sordel: The City's general fund pays the bond payment.

Sarah Olson: The Golf Course is an Enterprise Fund but parks and recreation are not, hence are not required to be self-supporting.

Shirley Sutton: Do the non-resident users of the Recreation Center pay the same fee? Do non-residents qualify for the Recreation Benefit Fund?

Joel Faber: There is not a resident discount for drop-in use of the facility or for programs. Residents do receive a preferred rate on rentals and 10-visit or annual passes. Only residents qualify for Recreation Benefit Fund scholarships.

Elizabeth Lunsford: Asked how citizens will know if there are any changes to the budget before it is approved.

Lynn Sordel: Departments will present their budgets to City Council in October. Councilmembers will then deliberate and make decisions. The Mayor will present her final budget on November 3.

Sarah Olson: We won't know for sure until the budget is officially adopted by City Council.

Ty Tufono: Thanked staff for a clear, concise presentation. She suggested the Parks & Recreation Board be opened up to residents in unincorporated Snohomish County.

Lynn Sordel: The Arts Commission lifted its residency restriction because there were no applicants. It is rare for the Parks & Recreation Board to have vacancies. We have two vacancies and already have four applicants.

Sarah Olson: We value the opinions of our users and citizens outside the City limits and have included them in our recent outreach efforts.

Councilmember Boyer: The City Council would welcome discussion on this topic after the budget has been adopted.

Councilmember Boyer: Gave kudos to staff for an excellent presentation and for succeeding in the face of budget pressures. He expressed concern about the lack of goals for cultural arts programming.

Sarah Olson: Staff was reluctant to include many goals until the Arts Commission retreat in December, at which the Commission's goals will be established. Several Decision Packages were put forward that included arts programming, but none were included in the budget.

Councilmember Boyer: Responded that the department budget presentation to Council should mention potential enhancements, partnerships or volunteer opportunities. A vision for cultural arts should be included even if it is recognized as unfunded.

Dave Gilbertson: It is important that the department be engaged, reach out to a diverse community and offer a wide variety of cultural programs. The general fund cannot sustain a park and recreation system that he values. The concept of a park district or a non-profit partnership needs to be considered.

Lynn Sordel: The Mayor's proposed budget includes funding for a feasibility study on the creation of a park district.

Prep for September 29 Joint Presentation to City Council. The ad hoc committee of Arts Commissioners and Parks & Recreation Boardmembers reviewed its preparation and plans for the upcoming presentation to City Council and discussed potential refinements to the presentation.

Kris Hildebrandt indicated that the Arts Commission needs to have a plan to implement.

Dave Gilbertson noted the diverse community reflected at our community celebrations and at the Recreation Center and our need to further engage and outreach including using the arts to create neighborhood identity.

Angel Shimelish suggested that Lynnwood's programs should embrace and reflect its diverse community.

Marissa Heringer noted that the Arts Commission has many new members and hasn't fully developed its ideas for programming. Members also want to support the Mayor's status quo budget.

Shirley Sutton and Rosamaria Graziani both offered suggestions for future arts programming.

Michael Megill stressed the importance of providing access to underserved populations.

Kris Hildebrandt suggested school partnerships.

Meeting Adjourned